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CLINICAL VIGNETTE

Green urine

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A 72-year-old man who was on long-term Foley catheter usage because of a neurogenic bladder, was admitted to Tung Wah Hospital because of fever. He was found to have greenish discoloration of his urine (Panels A and B). A urine culture yielded *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. The green-colored urine cleared after a course of quinolone.

Green color in the urine is caused by two soluble pigments produced by *P. aeruginosa*, namely pyocyanin and pyoverdine. Both pigments are lethal for many other bacteria, but there is no evidence that either has a major role in human infections.

Other differential diagnoses of green urine are listed in Table 1.

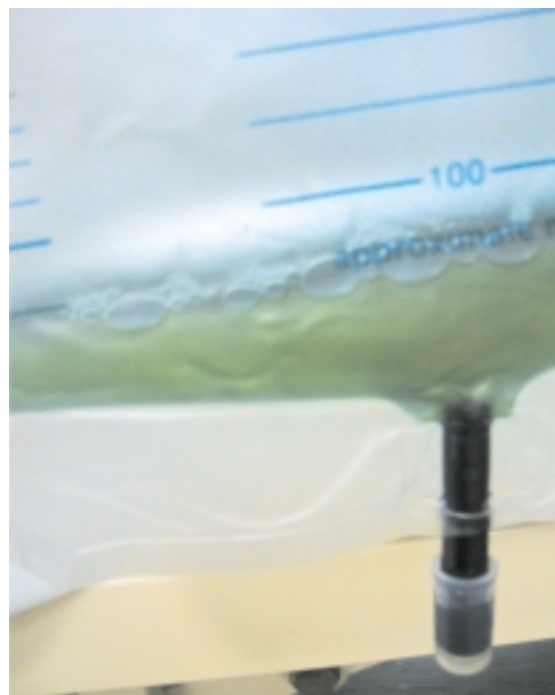
Table 1. Differential diagnoses of green urine.

Amitriptyline
Cimetidine
Promethazine
Indomethacin
Boric acid
Chlorophyll-containing breath mints (Clorets)
Obstructive jaundice
Magnesium salicylate
Methylene blue
Propofol



Panel A

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Panel B